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TAGS: [OPDC](#) [OTRA](#) [PREL](#) [KHIV](#) [EAID](#) [BC](#)

SUBJECT: Letter from President Khama to President Obama

11. SUMMARY: Embassy Gaborone received a diplomatic note July 6, 2009 transmitting a letter from Botswana's President Ian Khama to U.S. President Barack Obama. In addition to congratulating the United States on the anniversary of our independence, President Khama's letter offers thanks for U.S. assistance to Botswana, particularly PEPFAR and other health assistance, and invites President and Mrs. Obama to pay an official visit to Botswana in 2010. A scanned copy of the note and letter was emailed to AF/S on July 6. END SUMMARY.

12. Text of the Diplomatic Note:

NOTE NO: 52/2009 EA 6/16 (S) XXXI (14) C1

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation of the Republic of Botswana presents its compliments to the Embassy of the United States of America and has the honour to forward a letter dated 3rd July 2009 from His Excellency Lieutenant General Seretse Khama Ian Khama, President of the Republic of Botswana to His Excellency Mr. Barack H. Obama, President of the United States of America.

The Ministry will be obliged if the letter was conveyed to the highest authorities.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation of the Republic of Botswana avails itself of this opportunity to renew to the Embassy of the United States of America the assurances of its highest consideration.

13. Text of the Letter from President Khama:

The State President
PPO 23/28 III (294)
Gaborone
3 July 2009

Your Excellency,

On the joyful occasion marking the 233rd anniversary of your country's independence I am delighted to congratulate you and the people of the United States of America. The United States continues to be a beacon of hope for a more democratic, peaceful and economically prosperous future for all people around the world. As you mark this important day we extend our good wishes, friendship to you and the people of the United States.

I also congratulate the American soccer team for an outstanding performance during the recently concluded FIFA Confederations Cup soccer games held in South Africa. There can be no doubt that their performance made most Americans happy and immensely proud.

I wish to express my Government's gratitude to the support we continue to receive from the US Government and the American people

in our efforts to save the lives of our people from the HIV/AIDS threat. As a country, we are particularly grateful for the assistance we receive from the US President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR), the Centres for Disease Control, the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, the Harvard Institute and the Peace Corps, to name but a few.

The Government of Botswana and I are committed to further strengthening and consolidating the bonds of friendship between our two countries which are based on shared values of democracy, respect for human rights and the rule of law.

Mr. President, I wish to take this opportunity, to invite you and the First Lady, Mrs. Michelle Obama to undertake an official visit to Botswana in 2010 on dates to be mutually agreed. It would be a great honour and privilege for the Government and the people of Botswana to welcome you to our country.

Please accept, Mr. President, the renewed assurances of my highest consideration.

Lieutenant General Seretse Khama Ian Khama
PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF BOTSWANA

His Excellency Mr. Barack H. Obama
President of the United States of America
The White House
Washington, D.C.

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